

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1382

By Marsh

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the Middle Tennessee Education Center Security Operations Center at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Shelbyville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take pleasure in honoring those exemplary educational institutions that are preparing our citizens for the technology professions that are increasingly fueling our workforce; and

WHEREAS, the student-operated Middle Tennessee Education Center (MTEC) Security Operations Center at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) Shelbyville not only educates students in cybersecurity but also directly contributes to the protection of infrastructure in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the MTEC Security Operations Center is a component of the Information Technology and Infrastructure Management (ITIM) program located at TCAT Shelbyville and trains students to become information technology professionals; and

WHEREAS, the program is designed to consist of a combination of job-simulated and live projects providing the student with real "hands-on" learning experiences; students acquire a first-hand knowledge of the software, hardware, and operation of computers, network devices, wireless, and other advanced technology used in industry today; and

WHEREAS, instruction may include building, repairing, troubleshooting, installing, networking, and servicing computers, network devices, firewalls, mobile devices, and other advanced devices; the training also includes an introduction to information management, cybersecurity, workstations, servers, network infrastructure, and other advanced technology, including a thorough education in information technology and information systems, and culminates with system and network analysis, diagnosis, and advanced troubleshooting; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Laura Monks, president of TCAT Shelbyville, worked with lead instructor Steve Mallard to expand the ITIM cybersecurity program over the past two years; for twelve years, Steve Mallard has partnered with the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security as a subject matter expert; and

WHEREAS, seeing the need for real-world, hands-on training in cybersecurity, Dr. Monks coordinated with local officials to help the ITIM program move from TCAT Shelbyville's main campus to the Middle Tennessee Education Center; this move provided the space needed for a student-run security operation center; and

WHEREAS, the (MTEC) Security Operations Center is housed in a state-of-the-art training facility in cybersecurity; under the leadership of Steve Mallard, Mike Miller, and James Cochrane, students gather incoming data from various sensors across southern Middle Tennessee and analyze the cybersecurity threat landscape in real time; and

WHEREAS, colleges from across the country have reached out to TCAT Shelbyville to learn how their own institutions might implement such innovative training as that offered at TCAT Shelbyville; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, TCAT Shelbyville's ITIM program has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the Harold Love Community Service Award from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Computer Forensics Award - TTC Shining Star, TechTarget Leadership Award, TCAT Shining Star - Learning Management System, CTE Excellence in Action, White House Celebrating Innovations in Career and Technical Education, Best Higher Educational Cyber Security Program (Top Five), and recognition as 2021 Technical College of the Year by the Tennessee Board of Regents, in addition to many other accolades; and

WHEREAS, for more than fifty years, TCAT Shelbyville has provided an unparalleled technical education to the citizens of Tennessee, and this proud legacy continues today as technology becomes more vital to our economy and society; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend the administration, faculty, staff, graduates, and students of the Middle Tennessee Education Center Security Operations Center at Tennessee College of Applied Technology Shelbyville for their ongoing commitment to preparing the students of today for the workforce of tomorrow.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.